



Dominant Strategies

Game Theory Course:
Jackson, Leyton-Brown & Shoham

Domination

- Let s_i and s'_i be two strategies for player i , and let S_{-i} be the set of all possible strategy profiles for the other players
 - What's a “strategy”?
 - For now, just choosing an action (“pure strategy”)



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Definition

s_i **strictly dominates** s'_i if $\forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

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s_i **very weakly dominates** s'_i if $\forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

Equilibria and dominance

- If one strategy dominates all others, we say it is **dominant**.
- A strategy profile consisting of dominant strategies for every player must be a Nash equilibrium.
 - An equilibrium in strictly dominant strategies must be unique.



